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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 FEBRUARY 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Santa Cruz – Student Arrested For Developing and Using Drug-Selling App

(U) A student at the University of California Santa Cruz was charged with possession and distribution of drugs after he allegedly developed and used a mobile device application meant to sell contraband online last year. Collin Riley Howard, 18, of Sunnyvale was accused of selling methamphetamine and cocaine according to a press release issued by the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. Howard allegedly developed "Banana Plug," an app that was available on the Apple App Store, and offered cocaine, hallucinogenic mushrooms, and "molly." A campus police officer and an undercover Homeland Security Investigations agent arranged for the purchase of marijuana and cocaine, allegedly communicating with Howard via Snapchat, and set up three additional transactions, according to the release.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) Ukiah – Authorities Arrest Three Men with \$50,000 in Stolen Pills after High Speed Pursuit

(U) Three Sacramento men were arrested following a 100-mph pursuit in connection with a robbery in which three suspects wearing bandanas jumped the pharmacy counter of a Rite Aid and demanded pills. The suspect vehicle, which police later determined had been stolen out of the Sacramento area, eventually crashed south of Ukiah, and the three suspects briefly attempted to flee on foot. The suspects were found with "several thousand narcotic prescription pills" worth an estimated \$50,000. The three suspects were booked into Mendocino County jail on suspicion of robbery, evading police with reckless driving, resisting arrest, parole violation, possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of a controlled substance.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Authorities Seize \$12 Million in Methamphetamine

(U) Pharr – US Customs and Border Protection seized over \$12 million in methamphetamine at the Pharr International Bridge. According to CBP Office of Field Operation officers, a 42-year-old man was transporting a commercial shipment truck with frozen strawberries from Mexico. Upon secondary inspection officers discovered 350 packages of methamphetamine. CBP officers arrested the driver and released him to into the custody of Homeland Security Investigations.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [KVEO.com](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Illinois – Mass Shooting Reveals Gaps in Gun Laws; State Seeks to Close Them

(U) Aurora – The governor of Illinois vowed on Tuesday to seek tighter gun control measures after learning the man who shot five co-workers dead last week was wrongly granted a firearms permit but never forced to surrender his weapon. Governor J.B. Pritzker, a Democrat, said his "entire team is focused" on problems raised by the disclosure that the gunman was a violent felon who was legally

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barred from owning a gun but still obtained a permit to buy a weapon. The Illinois gunman carried his pistol to work on Friday and opened fire on fellow employees after receiving notice of his dismissal from the Henry Pratt Company plant in Aurora, Illinois, near Chicago. Five co-workers were killed and five police officers and a sixth employee were wounded before the assailant died in a gunfight with police. SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) France – Police Shoot Man after Knife Attack**

(U) Marseille – French police shot a man dead in central Marseille yesterday after he stabbed four people in the southern port city, in an attack that did not appear to be terrorism-related, police sources said. The assailant tried to take a gun out to fire on police officers before they shot him. The man wounded two people on a tram and two people in the street, one of them seriously.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) France – France Shaken by Outbreak of Anti-Semitic Violence and Abuse

(U) Paris – A series of attacks across France in recent days has alarmed politicians and prompted calls for action against what some commentators describe as a new form of anti-Semitism among the far-left and Islamist preachers. The problem was starkly underlined on Tuesday with the discovery of more than 90 graves in a Jewish cemetery in eastern France desecrated with swastikas and other abuse. It remains unclear who carried out the attack. France is home to the largest Jewish community in Europe, around 550,000 people, a population that has grown by about half since World War Two. But anti-Semitic attacks remain common, with more than 500 alone in 2018, a 74 percent increase on 2017, according to figures released last week.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) Germany – Microsoft Discovers Hacking Targeting Democratic Institutions in Europe

(U) Berlin – Microsoft Corp said it had discovered hacking targeting democratic institutions, think tanks and non-profit organizations in Europe, and plans to offer a cyber security service to several countries to close security gaps. The hacks occurred between September and December 2018, targeting employees of the German Council on Foreign Relations and European offices of the Aspen Institute and the German Marshall Fund, the company said. Microsoft said it found out about the hacks through the company's Threat Intelligence Center and Digital Crimes Unit, and the hacks targeted 104 employee accounts in Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, and Serbia.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) Lebanon – US Concerned about Hizbullah's Growing Role in Lebanon

(U) Beirut – Hizbullah's growing role in the Lebanese government worries the United States, the US ambassador to Lebanon said during a meeting with Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri on Tuesday, according to the US embassy. The armed Shi'ite group, which is backed by Iran and listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, controls three of the 30 ministries in Hariri's new cabinet, the largest number it has ever held. They include the Health Ministry, which has the fourth-largest budget in the state. Hizbullah's regional clout has expanded as it sends fighters to Mideast conflicts, including the war in neighboring Syria, where it has fought in support of President Bashar al-Assad.

SOURCE: 19 February 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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